

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

Volume XVIII.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1903.

Number 29.

## AGRICULTURE

### TOBACCO GROWERS MEET.

**The Rocky Mount Convention Friday was a Great Success—Resolutions Adopted—The Plan to Fight the Trust.**

Nearly two thousand farmers and other persons interested in the culture of tobacco assembled at Rocky Mount Friday to discuss the tobacco situation and devise ways and means of getting better prices for the weed. Great enthusiasm prevailed, and the resolutions, setting forth the plan of action, were adopted unanimously. Col. Cunningham presided and T. B. Parker was made secretary. Many excellent addresses were made during the day, the following being the more prominent speakers: Messrs. Cutchin, of Caswell; Dr. H. F. Freeman, of Wilson; J. O. W. Gravely, Rev. L. L. Nash, Hon. B. H. Bunn, of Rocky Mount; Hon. R. A. P. Colley, of Nash; W. F. Parker, of Halifax; O. L. Joyner, of Pitt; J. E. Pogue, W. P. Batchelor, Frank Stronach, J. Bryan Grimes, E. E. Britton, R. M. Phillips, of Raleigh; Jesse Brake, of Edgecombe; T. B. Parker, of the Farmers' Alliance; Dr. J. T. Graves and J. A. Farmer, of Wilson; M. W. Lincke, of Nashville; J. J. Laughinghouse, of Pitt; and I. M. Green, of Vance.

We wish that we had space to give an outline of each of these speeches, but the really important work of the meeting was the agreement on a plan for united action of the farmers and their allies. These resolutions were read by President Graham, of the State Alliance, the other members of the committee being J. B. Phillips, of Nash; J. B. Coffield, of Martin; E. L. Daughtridge, of Edgecombe; H. B. Ferguson, of Halifax; J. B. Davis, of Warren; Geo. W. Best, of Wayne; W. D. LaRoque, of Lenoir; W. B. Felton, of Bertie; J. J. Laughinghouse, of Pitt; W. H. Dixon, of Wilson; T. L. Gooch, of Franklin; R. R. Warren, of Beaufort; W. B. Daniel, of Vance. The resolutions follow:

#### THE PLAN OF ACTION

Whereas, the low price of leaf tobacco is ruinous to the interests of a very large number of the farmers of North Carolina, and, whereas, the interest of all our people are identical.

Now be it resolved by the Farmers' Protective Association of North Carolina:

First. That we protest against the action of the American Tobacco Company in putting the price of leaf tobacco below the cost of production.

Second. That we urge all classes of our citizens to lend their aid to our oppressed brethren at this time.

Third. That we urge our farmers to hold their tobacco as long as possible and to organize at once for their own protection.

Fourth. That we solicit the aid of our merchants, warehousemen and capitalists in carrying out the plans adopted by this body to afford relief to our people.

Fifth. That we tender our heartfelt thanks to the various mercantile associations and other bodies that have expressed sympathy with us and tendered their assistance.

Sixth. That local stock companies be formed to buy and manufacture tobacco while it is below the cost of production, these corporations to be established in every tobacco section which will enable the people at home to control the tobacco situation. The price of shares in these corporations will be five dollars each, putting a share within the reach of even the smallest tobacco grower.

The amount of the capital stock of each separate corporation is to be such as the stockholders desire, and the purposes of the corporations are set forth in the certificates as follows:

"The object for which this corporation is formed is to buy, sell, handle and in any manner deal in and with leaf and manufactured tobacco; to manufacture tobacco into plug, twist, cigars, cigarettes, cheroots, smoking tobacco and any and all forms. To own, lease, erect, maintain and operate warehouses for the handling and sale of leaf tobacco upon commission or otherwise, and also prize-houses, stemmeries, and any and all other houses or factories incident or necessary in carrying on a general tobacco business. To own, lease, erect, maintain and operate storage warehouses and to issue receipts for tobacco stored and to advance money or other credits upon such tobacco, which receipts shall be transferable and shall entitle the holder to the property so stored, or that part remaining after the payment of all advances and charges; such tobacco may be redeemed and removed upon presentation of the receipts and the payment of the amounts advanced, together with all incidental commis-

sion and charges. Payments for tobacco purchased or advances on tobacco stored may be made in cash, promissory notes redeemable at a fixed time, stocks or bonds of the corporation, or otherwise. To manufacture, buy, sell and otherwise deal in any and all kinds of fertilizers, phosphates, cotton seed meal and farm supplies, to engage in the general merchandise business either by wholesale or retail. To buy, own, lease, sell, improve, rent, or otherwise acquire or dispose of such real estate as may be considered convenient, necessary or desirable; and to do any and everything not prohibited by the laws of the State of North Carolina."

"The corporation shall also have power to conduct its business in all its branches, have one or more offices, and unlimitedly to hold purchase, mortgage and to convey real and personal property in any State, Territory or Colony of the United States, and in any foreign country or place."

"No stockholder of this corporation shall be individually or personally liable for the debts, contracts, torts or obligations of this corporation beyond the amount subscribed by him."

If this tobacco should be left on the hands of the corporations, they could convert it into the manufactured product at a handsome profit, as there can be no question as to the profits in such a business when the new material is bought so far below the cost of production.

These corporations could establish storage warehouses for keeping tobacco and many farmers would take stock in this business by putting in tobacco as capital instead of cash.

Those farmers who may wish to sell outright could take part cash in payment and the balance in a promissory note from the corporation, which they could use in relieving themselves and the merchants of their pressing obligations. These farmers who wish to hold their tobacco could have it dried, graded and prized and secure advances on it; and redeem their tobacco later upon the presentation of warehouse receipts and the payment of the amounts advanced, together with commissions and charges and interest on the money advanced.

It will not be the purpose of the corporations to interfere with the warehouses in any way, as the buyers for the corporations would go upon

the warehouse floors the same as the other buyers.

Seventh. That we direct the appointment by the President of the Association of an organizer for each county, and that provision for the pay of organizers be made by the Board of Advisers.

#### REPORT OF THE STATE ALLIANCE TOBACCO COMMITTEE

To the Alliancemen of the State.

Brethren:—We, your committee by the State Alliance at Hillsboro the 13th inst., to attend the meeting of tobacco growers at Rocky Mount the 21st, beg to report that we have attended to the duties for which we were appointed.

The attendance at the meeting was very large, variously estimated at from 2,000 to 3,000 persons. Enthusiasm ran high and determination seemed to be written on the faces of all who were present. We subjoin the report of the Committee on Resolutions, and ask you to give it careful consideration. [The resolution appears elsewhere.—Editor.]

Especially do we ask you to be active in reorganizing non-working Sub Alliances, and strengthening those now in working condition. We deem this a critical period with the farmers of the State, and especially the tobacco farmers. Many of you do not raise tobacco and are not directly interested in it, yet we should remember that many of our brother farmers are dependent on this crop for the money required to meet their financial obligations, educate their children and otherwise provide for themselves and families. Duty demands that we should listen to their appeals for help. In "union their is strength." The union of the farmers in thorough and compact organization can be made a strength irresistible by any combination that would oppress or crush them. Let us again be the united people that we were ten years ago, and we will have nothing to fear at the hands of the American Tobacco Company. Again we impress you with the importance of holding your tobacco until it will sell at a remunerative price.

Fraternally,

JOHN GRAHAM,  
J. E. PERSON,  
I. M. GREEN,  
T. B. PARKER,  
Committee.

It is reported that Thomas A. Edison has perfected a commercial phonograph.